

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-13 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3587

INFO USMISSION USBERLIN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 19929

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PGOV WB UR GW US UK FR

SUBJECT: SOVIET INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION IN WEST BERLIN:

POSSIBLE ATTENDANCE BY FEDERAL PRESIDENT

SCHEEL

BEGIN SUMMARY. THE SOVIETS HAVE SUGGESTED THAT
FEDERAL PRESIDENT SCHEEL ATTEND THE SOVIET EXHIBITION
WHEN HE IS IN WEST BERLIN NEXT WEEK. ALLIED BONN GROUP
REPS HAVE TOLD THE FRG REP THAT THEY HAD NO OBJECTION
TO SUCH A VISIT. END SUMMARY.

1. THE FRG BONN GROUP REP (HENZE) TELEPHONED ALLIED
REPS INDIVIDUALLY ON THE AFTERNOON OF NOVEMBER 25
CONCERNING THE SOVIET INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION WHICH WAS
TO OPEN IN WEST BERLIN THAT EVENING. HENZE INTIMATED
THAT THERE WOULD BE NO OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVES OF
THE SENAT AT THE OPENING, BECAUSE TO AVOID SOVIET
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OBJECTIONS NO SENIOR FEDERAL OFFICIALS WERE TO ATTEND.

2. HENZE STATED THAT EARLIER THAT DAY THE HEAD OF THE SOVIET FOREIGN TRADE MISSION IN WEST BERLIN HAD APPROACHED AN OFFICIAL OF AMK, THE WEST BERLIN EXHIBITIONS ORGANIZATION, TO STATE THAT HE UNDERSTOOD FEDERAL PRESIDENT SCHEEL WOULD BE IN BERLIN NEXT WEEK. HE WONDERED WHETHER SCHEEL MIGHT NOT WISH TO VISIT THE SOVIET EXHIBITION. HENZE CONTINUED THAT THE GERMANS SUSPECTED THAT, IF SCHEEL VISITED THE EXHIBITION, SOVIET AMBASSADOR ABRASIMOV WOULD ALSO BE PRESENT, AND THEY HAD IN FACT VERIFIED THAT SUSPICION.

3. NEVERTHELESS, HENZE CONTINUED, THE GERMANS SAW REAL ADVANTAGES IN HAVING SCHEEL ACCEPT THE INVITATION. THE SOVIETS WOULD NEVER AGAIN BE ABLE TO CLAIM THAT SCHEEL'S VISITS TO WEST BERLIN WERE ILLEGAL. IN HIS CONVERSATION WITH THE US REP, HENZE SAID HE HAD ALREADY CHECKED WITH THE UK AND FRENCH REPS, WHO HAD SAID THEY HAD NO OBJECTION.

4. US REP RESPONDED THAT HE DID NOT SHARE HENZE'S OPTIMISM THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD HENCEFORTH BE PRECLUDED FROM OBJECTING TO SCHEEL VISITS TO WEST BERLIN. HE THOUGHT THEY WOULD TRY IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER TO EXPLOIT THE VISIT TO THE SOVIET EXHIBITION, PERHAPS BY INDICATING THAT IT WAS AT ABRASIMOV'S INVITATION AND THAT ABRASIMOV SHARED THE COMPETENCE OF THE THREE WESTERN ALLIES TO INVITE WHOMEVER THEY PLEASED TO WEST BERLIN. DESPITE THIS POSSIBLE COMPLICATION, HOWEVER, US REP SAID HE AGREED THERE WERE POSITIVE ASPECTS AND SHARED THE VIEW OF THE UK AND FRENCH REPS, AS REPORTED BY HENZE, THAT THERE WAS NO OBJECTION TO THE FEDERAL PRESIDENT'S ATTENDING THE EXHIBITION.

5. THE QUESTION WILL BE DISCUSSED MORE FULLY AT THE NOVEMBER 26 AFTERNOON BONN GROUP MEETING.
STOESSEL

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